(d) and (e) During exploitation of 200 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles procured in July 2005, some defects were reported. A new engine is being trial evaluated. Also, a few minor defects as reproted by the Eastern Command in respect on 9 vehicles procured in February 2007, are being addressed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer.

Report of External Review Committee of DRDO

3131. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Review Committee of the DRDO has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government has studied those recommendations;

(d) if so, what action his Ministry has taken on those recommendations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Committee recommended for private sector participation in Defence research;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any recommendations have been made with regard to administrative, financial and technological aspects of DRDO; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (h) Yes, Sir. The External Review Committee of DRDO constituted by the Government to suggest measure for improving the functioning of DRDO *inter alia* Ministry of Defence, and Services has submitted its report to the Government of 5th March, 2008. It is under study of the Government.

Purchase of bullet proof vehicles

3132. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bullet proof vehicles were puchased in July, 2005 and February, 2007 from a private firm ignoring the cheaper offer from Ordnance Factory, Medak:

(b) whether the same were found defective;

(c) whether any enquiry is being conducted to find out how Request for Proposals (RFPs) are being issued to private firms without asserting the availability within the Ordnance factories; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A contract for procurement of quantity 200 bullet proof vehicles was signed in July, 2005.

Separately, quantity 9 bullet proof vehicles were procured in February, 2007. During price negotiation for these 9 vehicles, there was an indication by Ordnance Factory (OF), Medak (as per inputs received by the Integrated Financial Adviser) for supply of the vehicles at a lower price. As the requirement was urgent and Ordance Factory, Medak had indicated